

PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 06530.0145-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
Jose L. FRANCESE et al.	)	Group Art Unit: 3735
	)	
Application No.: 09/977,401	)	Examiner: MALLARI, Patricia C.
	)	
Filed: October 16, 2001	)	Notice of Allowance Dated:
	)	November 8, 2007
For: SUCTION ADAPTER FOR	)	
MEDICAL INSTRUMENT	)	Confirmation No.: 3026

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Applicants thank the Examiner for the Notice of Allowance and Statement of Reasons for Allowance mailed on November 8, 2007. Without withdrawing allowed claims 1-24 from issue, Applicants submit these comments.

The Examiner made characterizations and assertions about the claims and the related prior art in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Although Applicants agree with the Examiner's ultimate conclusions that the claims are patentable because the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed features set forth in the claims, Applicants do not necessarily agree with each or every characterization and assertion contained in the Examiner's statement.

Furthermore, it is understood that the Examiner's characterizations were for purposes of referring to the prior art, and do not in any way imply that the claims are

limited by words not actually present in the claims. Therefore, unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization contained in the Notice of Allowance and its accompanying Reasons for Allowance.

Should the Examiner disagree with the Applicants' comments on the Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 202.408.4140, in order to resolve such disagreement.

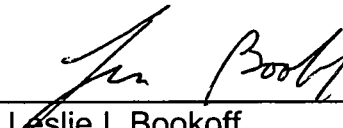
If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 31, 2008

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Leslie I. Bookoff  
Reg. No. 38,084